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Report of Mr. Innes regarding the Malabar tenancy problem.

692 Q.—Mr. C. Ramalinga Reddi : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to lay on the table the papers submitted by Mr. Innes when Collector of Malabar dealing with the tenancy problem in Malabar and the reforms he proposed in connexion therewith ?

A.—The Government are unable to comply with the request.

Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—" Will the hon. Member in charge be pleased to say whether Mr. Innes has marked those papers as confidential ? "

The hon. Sir K. Srinivasa Ayyangar :—" Yes."

Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—" Sir, in spite of that answer, will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state for what reason it was treated as confidential ? The question is a public one and there is nothing private about it. Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to say what objection he has to place it on the table ? "

The hon. Sir K. Srinivasa Ayyangar :—" We do not usually place confidential papers on the table."

Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—" Does the hon. Member regard the question of Malabar tenancy as confidential ? "

The hon. Sir K. Srinivasa Ayyangar :—" The Government considered a particular report as confidential, but not that the question of Malabar tenancy is a confidential one."

Mr. C. Ramalinga Reddi :—" Will I be in order, Sir, to give notice of a resolution or a motion requesting the Government to place on the table those papers ? "

The hon. the President :—" Is it an interpellation addressed to the Law Member ? " (laughter).

Mr. C. Ramalinga Reddi : " It is to you, Sir."

The hon. the President :—" I think I am also entitled to be given some notice."

Mr. K. Prabhakaran Tampan :—" May I know, Sir, whether the report sent by Mr. Innes was submitted in response to an order from the Government or volunteered by him ? "

The hon. Sir K. Srinivasa Ayyangar :—" I am sorry, Sir, I cannot discuss that question any further."

Licence for arms in the Bellary district.

693 Q.—Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) the number of licences issued last year in the Bellary district for (1) revolvers, (2) breech-loading guns and (3) muzzle-loading guns respectively ;

(b) how many of the above licences were respectively cancelled before the end of the year and how many out of the remaining number were refused renewal for the current year ;

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(c) whether any bench magistrates and municipal councillors were refused licences and required to deposit their fire-arms in the police station in the last or current year and, if so, the general reason for such an order;

(d) whether applications for licence for fire-arms are invariably required to be sent through police officers or referred to them for enquiry and report before disposal; and

(e) whether a similar practice obtains in every other district in the presidency?

A.—(a) The number of licences issued in 1921 in the Bellary district was—

(1)	Revolvers	12
(2)	Breech-loading guns	162
(3)	Muzzle-loading guns	250

(b) Of the above licences one licence for a revolver, two licences for breech-loading guns and three licences for muzzle-loading guns were cancelled before the end of the year. Of the remainder none of those for which applications for renewal were received before the end of the year was refused renewal for the current year.

(c) No Bench Magistrate was refused a licence either in 1921 or 1922, nor were any of them required to deposit their fire-arms in the police station. The licences possessed by five municipal councillors were cancelled in the current year because they took an active part in the more violent methods of the Non-Co-operation party such as the enforcement of hartals and the picketing of liquor shops. No municipal councillor was refused a licence last year (but the licence granted to one was cancelled at his own request).

(d) The answer is in the negative.

(e) The practice in all districts is similar.

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar :—" Licences of five municipal councillors are stated to have been cancelled during the year. 11-15 a.m. Were the members concerned given an opportunity of repudiating the charges contained in those reports on the strength of which the licences were cancelled?"

The hon. Mr. A. R. Knapp :—" I am afraid, Sir, I have no information on that point."

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar :—" Will the hon. Member be pleased to obtain the information? It seems to be important that people should be heard before their licences are cancelled."

The hon. Mr. A. R. Knapp :—" I do not think that any useful purpose will be served by calling for the information. If the gentlemen are fit to hold licences they can apply for fresh ones."

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar :—" Though the hon. Member might not be prepared to take action in past cases, will he be pleased hereafter to issue orders that before licences are cancelled the persons concerned are heard?"